

August 11, 2009

Dan Ruben
Executive Director
Equal Justice America

Dear Mr. Ruben:

I was an intern for Texas Appleseed this summer. My primary responsibilities included researching: long term foster care, aging out of foster care, child welfare court reform, and the best interest vs. legal interest debate for child representation in Child Protected Services (CPS) cases. I also completed literature reviews and detailed research source lists on long-term foster care and aging out, and child welfare court reform. Finally, I was involved in the Diversity Legal Scholars application selection process where I reviewed applications, helped create a selection criteria system, and kept applicants informed throughout the process.

While at Texas Appleseed, I also attended Drug Court (for parents involved in CPS cases) and Court. The cases in these courts were directly related to my research focus at Texas Appleseed, and they provided for me a first hand view of the legal process involved in child protected services cases. Being in court also made the research more personal and allowed me to see how my research, and the work that Texas Appleseed is invested in, will have an impact on real people and enhance the lives of children in foster care.

The Equal Justice America Fellowship allowed me to be involved in an invaluable experience that enhanced my passion for doing public interest work and providing legal services to those who may not otherwise be able to afford them. While Texas Appleseed is not a direct service organization, my internship allowed me to see public interest work as a much broader concept that has a direct impact on the lives of many.

In closing, I would like to thank Equal Justice America for providing funding for my internship this summer. I had a terrific experience working for Texas Appleseed and I am positive that the lessons learned and connections made through this internship will benefit me throughout my legal career.

Sincerely,

Cheremma Lee
Juris Doctor Candidate 2011
Texas Wesleyan University School of Law